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The DIT Examiner : the Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union, February/March, 1996

DIT Students' Union

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The DIT Examiner

The Newspaper of the Dublin Institute of Technology Students' Union Feb/March '96



Colin Joyce is the only candidate for Overall President of DITSU in this year's elections. We ask him what his plans are if he is successful this week
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Students from DITs Aungier Street and Kevin Street got a taste of the heady life of the supermodels recently with their fashion shows
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DITSU elections take place this week. We asked the sabbatical candidates why you the voters should put your mark beside their names
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DIT's second sports day takes place on March 20th. It's time once again to head out to AISAA and show the folk with the cash what you can do.
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That's The Point!



Almost 6,000 people attended the first ever DIT-wide Rag Ball in the Point Theatre last week.

The ball, which was seen as crucial to the success of the ambitious week of institute-wide events, went off without a hitch and will most likely be seen as a benchmark for future rag weeks in the DIT.

Buses carrying the students began to arrive at the Point at about 8.30pm following local events close to DIT sites. The distance from the city centre to the venue had been an initial worry but the ferry service organised by DITSU worked well both at the beginning of the night and much much later when

the bands had long ago left the stage and the second disco had finished off the hardest of revellers.

First up were U2 tribute band Achtung Baby, and a daunting task it was, for their initial audience was discouragingly small, the early busloads being lost in the vastness of the venue. To their credit, the band didn't let this get them down too much and by the time they finished their set, the audience had swelled dramatically and was singing along lustily, if somewhat drunkenly to every song.

As the first disco commenced, the scale of the event became clear to the Point's security staff; the stairways up to

the balconies was jammed with people and movement had become minimal. Only when some bright spark suggested allocating one stairway for people going up and the other for those coming down was the problem solved. Meanwhile, the buses continued to arrive.

When Aslan finally took the stage there were almost 6,000 people in the place, many happily and haplessly wandering around, but many more jostling for position near the stage. There was no pit in position between stage and audience which led inevitably to some invasion tactics by some of the more agile nearest the stage. They were unceremoniously flung back into the arms of

their fellow students. However, the good temper of the event prevailed and Aslan, veterans that they are, had the crowd hopping, singing along and generally behaving as if every one was a die hard fan whereas it is likely that some of the younger students present were hitherto blissfully unaware of the existence of the band. An encore was demanded, acceded to and afterwards The band professed themselves well pleased with the event and the reaction of the crowd.

Another disco followed which continued into the wee hours and as the weary revellers dragged themselves into the cold night, they were greeted with the welcoming sight of a fleet of buses.

The DIT Examiner

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DIT Rag Week - After the Rush

There have been murmurings around the DIT in the last few days regarding rag week and the rag ball in particular. Some have said that it was a bad idea to even have a DIT-wide event in such a large venue, that the event was a disappointment and that the people who enjoyed it most were the various sabbaticals, some of whom were sitting on the edge of the stage as headline band Aslan came to the end of their set. People are entitled to their opinion, however misinformed, but let us put some of the criticisms into perspective.

The idea of holding a DIT-wide event such as rag week and the rag ball in particular is not a new one. It was mooted at least four years ago and for a variety of reasons did not at that time come to pass. Last year it was suggested again, and some people were still reticent, and this is not surprising. Individual sites put great store in rag week and its success or failure is very important to individual unions. A DIT-wide event was a risky undertaking - it has paid off and let us not forget that - but it was a risk worth taking for an institute that is trying to forge greater links between each site and endeavouring to create a strong sense identity. Such co-operation and cross campus events will become more widespread as the DIT draws together in the coming years. The rag ball showed that it can be done and that if done properly it can be a great success and a credit to all concerned and all who took part and made the effort. Which leads to the second issue: the primary reason that members of DITSU's executive were on the stage towards the end of the night was to prevent as best they could the stage invasion that had occurred earlier on during which people were pushed back into the crowd. And if they looked like they were milking the moment a little, then so be it. They and the union non-sabbaticals worked extremely hard on rag week and on the night of the rag ball only actually sat down when they were on that stage. They were right to enjoy the moment.

This is not an apologia for the executive, nor a hymn to their all round wonderfulness. It is simply a fact: they worked hard and they should be credited with that work. If it makes them look good, so what?

Finally, was the evening a disappointment? To some it certainly was; for some the rag ball always will be for any number of perfectly good reasons. If the number of voices raised seemed greater this year, this may be because the numbers present at such an event greatly exceeded those of any other year. Almost 6000 people went to the rag ball this year and if the photographs in this issue of the *DIT Examiner* are anything to go by, a great many of them seemed to have a very good night.

Sports Day Looms Again

Still on the subject of DIT-wide events, the institute's second sports day takes place on Wednesday, March 20th. Those who took part will hopefully remember the day as exceptionally warm and tremendously enjoyable. More than 2,000 students made their way out to the ALSAA sports complex at Dublin Airport and spent the entire day playing, watching or organising a bewildering number of sporting events. This year's event looks like being a more hastily organised affair and questions will have to be asked about the delay in getting things moving. But they can wait until after the event. DIT's sports day is an event that relies for its success on the willingness of the students of DIT to make the minimal effort to get to the venue. Without your presence, the event is simply a non-starter and the point of the day, beyond the celebration of sport in the institute, will have been lost.

Sports facilities in the DIT remain largely disgraceful and inadequate and yet, as last year's event and the continued success of various DIT teams in a number of disciplines proves, the students have a great deal to offer in terms of sport. Success in sport reflects well upon everyone, those who take part and the institute as a whole. It is vital that the sports facilities in the DIT be improved dramatically and with this in mind, it is of crucial importance that its students get out on sports day and show those with the influence and the money that they will take part if they have somewhere to do so. Remember, March 20th. It's just one day but, taking the long view, it is a very important one. Bearing in mind that the Department of Education's white paper on education contains a clearly defined commitment to the development of sport in educational institutions, it is a perfect opportunity to remind Niamh Bhreathnach of that commitment.

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Clarifications

Should you encounter anything you feel is in need of clarification in this, or any other issue of the *DIT Examiner*, please contact the editor and any such matters shall then be clarified in the subsequent edition

Making Business their Business

“Challenge is the core of life”. The mainspring of all human activity - if there's an ocean we cross it; if there's a record we break it and if there's a mountain, we climb it.

These words indicate that nothing in this life is insurmountable, including establishing a successful business, no matter how crazy the idea may seem to other people at its infant state.

Four years ago, an Enterprise Society was formed in DIT Kevin Street. its primary objective was and continues to be, to bring all students of Kevin Street together through 'society' events and projects. So, one might ask "what is enterprise"?

The word 'enterprise' refers to human activity which helps in the production of wealth by supplying initiative and control and bearing the risk involved.

Future prosperity lied in the unleashing of the enterprise potential of individuals, business and public organisations, which collectively will generate future employment. However, this requires a supportive economic policy and required infrastructure. Enterprise can be developed through a combination of fiscal incentives and the proactive approach of several organisations.

In Ireland, these would include

Dublin Business Initiative Centre, County Enterprise Boards, First Step and other supportive organisations. Remember, readers, the 'first step' can take place within the confines of Kevin Street through the support of the Enterprise Society.

Unfortunately, through the continual emphasis on semesterisation coupled with students striving for academic success, the Enterprise Society hit a quagmire. This was all to change in 1995. A new committee was established, giving the society a new lease of life. This committee, including John Murphy (chairperson), Ruari O'Siochán and Dick Heywood Jones (Business Lecturer) have combined their resources and turned the society on its axis.

In December 1995, a group of approximately 40 Business and Erasmus students paid a visit to the Dáil to view proceedings from the gallery. It was a great success and it was very encouraging to see such a positive response. As a result of this, an invitation to address the students and lecturers was sent out to the Minister for Enterprise and Employment, Mr Richard Burton TD. This invitation has been accepted.

On March 26th 1996, in DIT Kevin Street, lecture hall K108, the Minister



Entrepreneurs of the future

will address students and lecturers on "The Role of Third Level Institutions in Shaping Irish Enterprise". Invitations are currently being sent out to Trinity, UCD, DCU and all the DIT sites. A meeting of the enterprise society will take place in the coming days informing all members or anyone who is interested in this address by the Minister (keep an eye out for posters)

After the Minister's address, a questions and answer session will take place. For all you future potential

entrepreneurs, this is a chance to enhance your knowledge.

Other events are planned for April including a visit to the Financial Services Centre, Stock Exchange and Intel. The Enterprise Society encourages everyone to get involved. So why not get into the thick of the action now?

Hope to see you all on March 26th.

by John Murphy
chairperson

So Near and Yet...



DIT Cathal Brugha Street men's soccer team departed for Waterford for the quarter finals on a high note, resplendent in a set of polo shirts (thanks to the Shakespeare). Going into the match with their unbeaten run, they were confident of a good result. Things did not go according to plan and they went a goal down early on in the game. Undeterred, they pushed forward and were rewarded for their efforts with a fine goal from Shane McCartan. Once again, however, they relaxed and at half time they were 2-1 down.

A ferocious battle developed in the second half with neither team letting up for the 45 minutes. Time was running out when Cathal Brugha Street pushed Robbie Doyle up front and with three minutes to go his header from the edge of the box was helped into the net thanks to some fine opportunism from Finian Cassidy.

Confidence was high in extra time but a goal from nowhere dealt the team a fatal blow. In an effort to claw one back they were left short at the back and conceded a fourth. The final score, 4-2 was not a true reflection on a tough and thrilling encounter which saw a number of fine individual performances. Colin Regan was outstanding in defence alongside Shane McCartan. Robbie Doyle, Mark Leddy and Finian Cassidy also played extremely well. Shane and Graham would like to thank Carmel Murphy (Sports Officer) and the Shakespeare Bar for their support during the year and also the lads for the fine effort all season.

Team: Kevin O'Neill, Dwyer Ryan, Shane McCartan, Robbie Doyle, Colin Regan, Graham Russell, Derek Meehan, Finian Cassidy, Mark Leddy, Bertrand Boisse, Conor Clancy, Finian O'Dowd, Kenny Vaughan, Simon Twomey, Gerry Lee.

Good News for Students!

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What do I need?

You need a valid ISIC and Travelsave Stamp (available from USIT) to avail of student fares.

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BUS ÉIREANN

The Hard Life of a Modern Student

College life is not the state-funded holiday it is cracked up to be. Those of us who aren't deemed destitute enough to receive the grant have to get our money by other means (in a legal manner of course). While it is accepted the all students spend parents'/taxpayers/ money on booze, drugs and various forms of debauched living, the odd occasion actually arises when one has to buy a new book or some equipment for the course.

It is at times like this that a few spare quid comes in handy. The usual method of earning money is, naturally enough, by getting a part-time job. Hah, sounds easy doesn't it? Well, take into account the size of the student population in Dublin and the amount of work available and it doesn't take a quantum physicist to work out that there aren't enough jobs available.

Just look at the CV enhancing options out there. If you aren't "lucky" to get underpaid bar or restaurant work you can take up handing out dodgy flyers for equally dodgy psychics or even indulge in a spot of grave digging. Essentially, when a chance to earn some dosh comes along, the hopeful candidate had better have a will of iron and an attitude that Lucretia Borgia would be proud of. And when that job prospect arrives make sure that you get hold of it as a 50-a-day smoker longs for a pack of Silk Cut after a week off the fags.

Therefore, when I was offered a day's well paid work, I jumped at the chance. The job itself entailed spending the day teaching 5th and 6th class in Scoil Caitrion National School on Baggot Street. Considering that I spend a good deal of my time hurling abuse at Niamh Bhreathnach I rather liked the idea of receiving a cheque from An Roinn Oideachas. Basically, if a trained substitute teacher cannot be found, an alternative must be sought. Now normally I would object to nepotism. but hey, if my mother comes home from work and asks me if I want to work for the day in her school because I did reasonably well in the Leaving Cert, far be it for me to object. You see, I too appreciate the odd cash injection. I also need to buy beer (sorry, books).

I arrived present and correct in the staff room at 8.50am.

There I was, carrying an official/threatening looking briefcase, wearing my mother's Gap jacket and white Levis. I had a class plan drawn up and was determined that I would show these kids what education was really all about. An aura of confidence surrounded me. The principal warned me that 5th and 6th class would do their best to try to get to me but I didn't care. I was like the teacher in Dead Poets Society in overdrive. Teachers who I have known since I was four years old sat and wept at the thought that I would be a temporary colleague. One newer member laughed and said "they'll have you for breakfast". I still didn't care I had worked with 300 children in South London. I was ready. I was also mitching Communication Theory, but that only heightened my anticipation.

The first real glitch happened the minute I entered the classroom. Whispers of "that's Mrs Weekes daughter" filtered through the air like the worst Dublin smog. damn. My cover was blown. I informed the class that yes, I was Mrs Weekes first (and last) born. I also informed them that if they thought she was strict they hadn't seen nothin' yet. "Nah" said one over-precocious 11-year-old. "I used to be in her class and no-one is meaner than her." Not that I needed telling really. After all, she had reared me. At this point, 10 minutes into the day, thoughts of "there's always one, isn't there?" and "what the Hell am I doing?" raced through my mind. Suddenly, Catherine Curran's Political Economy lecture seemed rather inviting. But it was too late. I had filled out the necessary forms, I had committed myself to it and boy, did I get the feeling that by the end of the day, I would need committing.

Irish wasn't a problem, Maths went relatively smoothly, and we had an interesting chat about Liverpool's chances in the cup (current affairs, right?). Before I knew it, the lunch bell rang. I then remembered a devastating fact: I was dying for a cigarette and the whole building was a smoke-free zone. what was I to do? Go out into the playground and ask if anyone in fourth class had a light? Down to the staff room I went to console myself with a couple of chocolate biscuits, terrified that my mother might be in the premises to check

up on me. Nicotine withdrawal I could handle, parental guidance I didn't need.

The Second class teacher was surprised not to hear any shouts (from me, not the class) and whispered in a conspiratorial manner that the odd rant wouldn't go astray "with that shower of messers". I bore that in mind. After lunch we were doing English and I might need to exercise my vocal chords then.

I collected the little darlings from the play ground and we them to take out their English readers. We came across a passage about Irish presidents. We came across "TD" and took a risk by asking if anyone knew what it meant. Just before I launched into Irish class part II a confident hand shot up. You can't imagine my relief. "Total Dickhead, miss" Poor Anto said this with such conviction, I knew that he must have picked it up at home. Another child was able to tell me who her local Total Dickhead was so I accepted it with as much grace as I could.

However, the mention of the D word seemed to be a general signal that they were tired of behaving themselves. It was as though the class had decided during lunch that the true purpose of a sub-teacher, especially an untrained one, was to make his/her life a misery. I had two hours to go and I had to survive.

Teacher training colleges exist for a reason. I could obviously pick up a thing or two there. Fifth and Sixth class didn't need a teacher; they needed a bouncer, prison guard and child psychologist. They certainly didn't need me and vice versa. No wonder Minister Bhreathnach gave up teaching: the hassles of the Oireachtas can at least be semi-sorted out over a pint in the Dail bar. I must admit, however, that should more sub-teaching come my way that I would do it again. Next time, I'll know better and insist on a different class.

Oh, by the way, the cheque from the Dept of Education came last week. I went straight to Flannery's on Camden Street and had a drink in honour of Paul, the only child who could say "Feic se" without wetting himself laughing.

by Siobhan Weekes.

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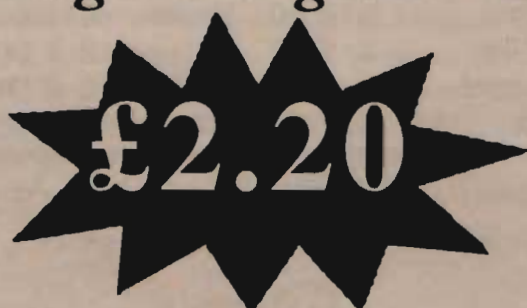
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March 6th

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You know those cringe inducing times when you dare to wear stiff new and very very blue jeans for the first time? You're very aware they're new because they are excruciatingly uncomfortable and everyone else knows because you're walking about with the stilted gait of one who's underwear is made of steel wool. Now, take that embarrassing scenario, place it on a stage in full view of your peers and some thoughtfully provided very bright lights and you may have some idea of the courage it takes most people to take part in a college fashion show, two of which were held recently in the DIT.

DIT Kevin Street's took place in the Gleeson Hall and was a raucous, high spirited affair with the models giving it socks in outfits of greatly varying sartorial acceptability and Cathal O'Driscoll providing the commentary, some of the jokes in which the audience actually got. A disco followed and a great time was had by all, as they say.

Aungier Street followed with their show the next night, in the somewhat more salubrious surroundings of Jury's Hotel in Ballsbridge. Ray D'Arcy was com-pere for the evening, made a few friends in the audience but finally ended up with null points due to his

shocking outfit. As with the Kevin Street event, there were some shrinking violets who braved the audience and the stage with a nervous grin and a speedy walk - and fair play to them - and some others who behaved as if the stage was their natural habitat. We take our collective huge hat off to all who took part, those committed few who organised and the fine folk who donated the clothes for the evening. As bad pun guru Cathal O'Driscoll so memorably put it from the safety of a caged area, everyone had "clothes of fun". If you say it really quickly and have a massive imagination it makes a degree of sense. Honest.



Keith looks particularly ridiculous. The shirt's not too hot either



PVC and leather make some people behave very, very oddly



Dan Wade - Shy Guy



This isn't even remotely wholesome

*If Looks
Could Kill...*



*Sgt
Pepper's
Lonely
Very Bad
Dancers*



Hard Time in Mountjoy

John Lonergan is the Governor of Mountjoy Prison, which has featured heavily in the newspapers lately. He recently gave a very frank and revealing talk in DIT Bolton Street, outlining his philosophy regarding the prison system and its relation to society as a whole. Despite the nature of his work - he says he has been 'in prison' for 28 years - his attitude is overwhelmingly positive and he is a most entertaining speaker.

"Where I come from in terms of prisoners is that I don't judge anyone at all. I try to operate on a basis that it's none of my business what crimes they have committed when they come to me. It is of course a concern for society, for the courts and the police but when they come to me, my philosophy is that it is none of my business. My business is to keep them there and to care for them and look after them and I have no difficulty with that."

John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison outlines his philosophy of work in a conversational, light tone that belies the deep significance of what he says and the words say about him.

This, after all, is a man who, as he says himself, as been in prison for 28 years, 12 of them as Governor of Mountjoy. He is a man who "looks after and cares for" murderers, rapists, muggers, thieves, spouse abusers and any other type of criminal you care to mention. And he says he does not judge any of them. And he is utterly believable.

It has been reported that no previous governor received the respect from the inmates of Mountjoy as that afforded John Lonergan, and on the evidence of a wide ranging and extremely frank talk he gave recently in DIT Bolton Street, this is no surprise. His demeanour is that of a man whose brief is to do an exceptionally demanding job as humanely and with as much understanding as possible. Though he deals with the kind of people most regard as social pariahs at best, and utterly evil and depraved at worst, his attitude is fatalistic rather than relentlessly grim and even this fatalism is shot through with a sense of humour which may seem incongruous in light of his work but if you think about it, must go a long way to keeping him going.

Take the following, for example, a description of the manner in which prisoners arrive at the gates of Mountjoy Prison:

"People arrive at the gates in a van. A couple of weeks ago we had 25 arrive in an hour. Their warrants are laid out, pieces of paper with how long they've been sent to Mountjoy, names, addresses if they have them, signed by a judge in a district court or the registrar of a higher court. That's it. No evaluation, no psychiatric reports, no psychological reports, no social enquiry reports, no educational analysis, nothing. They just arrive. In the case of drug addicts, we depend on them telling us, we don't know, we have nothing to tell us. We can look at their arms, they might have recent puncture marks. Again, that's how they come, that's the way the system operates." He regularly only finds out who and how many are arriving when the van pulls up at the gates of the prison. It beggars belief that this is the way things are in a prison in Ireland in 1996.

Lonergan did not display anger at any point during the talk; the nearest he came was a kind of resigned exasperation with recent reports in some sections

of the media and from certain political quarters regarding prison life.

Mountjoy prison, he points out, is designed to accommodate 450 prisoners. One any one day, it actually caters for as many as 650.

"It's ironic, in the 1860s, the English government brought out a law that said that every prisoner should have a single cell and in 1986 our Government brought out another law that said it was now OK to double up so what I have is 320 men sharing single cells, doubled up." Bear in mind that Mountjoy prisoners still slop out in the morning, spend about 16 hours each day in their cells and that during the time they are out of their cells, about 200 are idle at any one period since the teaching, recreation and work facilities cannot cope with the numbers.

"It's far removed from the Conrad." The daily regime goes something like this:

At 8.15am the cells are opened and the prisoners slop out and wash up. They collect their breakfast and eat in their cells (they not, insists the Governor, have a choice of any cereal they want, but three operating on a 28-day cycle).

From 9.20 to 12.30 they are out of the cells, occupied in school, exercising, in workshops or in the kitchens. At 12.30 they get dinner ("the food is OK, that's about all I'll say about it") and are locked up until 2.15. Out again until 4.30 when they get tea. That finished, the cells are unlocked from 5.15 to 7.30, "which means looking at a TV or video or queuing up for a pool table". After that it's lock up until eight the next morning. At 8.15am the cells are opened ...

There seems to be sadness behind John Lonergan's chatty, amusing persona and this is no surprise for he sees society's drop outs/ unfortunates/ losers/ failures/pariahs every day. For many, such work would surely be too much, but he claims that he has never met anyone who was pure evil, or pure good for that matter, and though he accepts there are some people in prison "so wrecked with drugs" that there is no hope for them, he seems to rely on a reservoir of hope and belief in human nature. There is a curious, almost evangelical bent to some of the things he says, almost as if he were exhorting his audience.

"There is nothing too good for you, you are totally unique and as important as anyone else in the world, and if anyone of you thinks otherwise, you should challenge yourself every time. You deserve everything you get."

The core of his message is that if many of the inmates of the prison had been shown this positivity as children, they may not have wound up where they are.

"The system is not very fair; where you come from and what resources you have and how you're seen in society, have a huge bearing on how you turn out. I'm very strong on this thing about the child. I'm absolutely convinced that it all starts and ends with how we treat

the child, all the psychological conditioning that takes place almost from the day we were conceived.

"You take anyone from the middle class, upper class; what sort of lifestyle do they get from the day they are conceived? The best doctors, best hospitals, best stimulation, best schools, best holidays, the very best. Then you get the guy on the other side of the coin, what does he get? Plenty of belts, neglect, under stimulation."

"There is a direct connection between crime and poverty. I am so sure of that because if you go up to Mountjoy and look at them everyone bar a few is destitute, they come from the same type of background and with the same prospects - nil"

On the high profile drugs problem in prison, he as is forthcoming as one would expect, making no claims about an effective policy of deterrence or a highly successful counselling service.

"They bring them in every way they can. They bring them in on visits and we tried to stop that, they bring it in in their bodies. A prisoner told me as late as yesterday 'you're wasting your time because we bring it in in our bodies'. They swallow it and they use their back passage, they put it up their nose, and

blades up their nose and back passage. We marvel at the ingenuity of people in the old concentration camps; there's no limit to what a human being can do, humans will always survive and come up with a system to beat another system. And they are determined to do it."

With the system as it is, rehabilitation, or resocialisation as Lonergan prefers to term the process, is next to impossible which means that prisons are little more than institutes of incarceration and he accepts that some inmates come out worse off than when they went in - "they could have a family going in and that could be gone when they come out"

Ultimately, despite the suffering and pain inflicted by some of the inmates and his bald assertion that society has simply lost the battle against drugs in many disadvantaged areas, he believes in a positive approach, and possibly clings to it.

"Human beings don't respond to negatives. My view is that we've got to start telling people you're wrong to beat up people, and to challenge them and to keep them locked up if you have to, to protect the innocent but to brutalise them with a view to changing their behaviour is in my view self-defeating."

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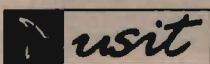
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The Mother Of All Rag Weeks

DIT's rag week 1996 will be remembered by a lot of people for many reasons. It was the first institute wide rag week and as such represented a substantial risk, in terms of how it would be received by the students and also financially.

By the end of the week, it was clear that the risk had been worth it. The site specific events proved as popular, and in some cases, as disgusting as ever and the common events exceeded all expectations.

Monday was a fair indication of how things were going to go: Club USI was the location for a day and night of events for DIT Aungier Street and Kevin Street and the place was, frankly, stuffed to capacity from beginning to end and the end was very late indeed. More than 1,100 students came and

went and drank and it was a spectacularly noisy event. Meanwhile, a New Year's Eve party was taking place in Rumours with elbow raising room at a strict premium.

Hangovers could have threatened participation in the trip to Waterford but the bould folk of the DIT proved themselves to be made of far sterner stuff. 27 coach-loads of happy revellers travelled south east for the day, stopping off in Carlow for a bit of ...rest. Tired, more than likely the worse for wear, they returned at 5.30 the following morning, all 1,400 of them.

Wednesday was a quieter affair, recovery and local events being the order of the day except, it seems, for Mountjoy Square whose traditional Crazy Night was

by all accounts more of an eye-opener than usual. Clothing was lost, it seemed. Lots of it.

Thursday was make or break day. At noon, the union executive travelled to the Point Theatre to sort out last minute arrangements. It looked very very empty. Very happily, the day and the night went like a dream. No incidences, little hassle and phenomenal numbers, almost 6,000 people.

There is little left to be said. In this instance the best evidence is photographic and so we present for your perusal, a series of images from DIT Rag Week '96, some more pleasant than others. Enjoy or endure. It'll probably depend largely on whether or not you are present in any of them, and if you are, the condition in which you appear.



Bungee Running in Club USI on Monday. Only 1,100 that day



Aungier Street's Pub Crawl. And this was before they started



Locking Horns in Bolton Street



These men look utterly ridiculous



being camera shy is a terrible thing altogether



The Point Theatre, Thursday, Feb. 22nd 1996



Apparently, this sort of thing goes on all the time in Cathal Brugha Street



Beer should not induce that

DIT Rag Week '96 A Pictorial Retrospective

THE IRISH TIMES

DITSU Simplex

CROSSWORD

Competition

PRIZE: First 3 correct entries drawn will each receive a £20 gift voucher for DITSU Students Union Shop.

RULES: Only open to members of the DIT colleges. Employees of DITSU and THE IRISH TIMES are not eligible to enter.
No Photocopies -
Entries close: Wed., 20th March.

SEND TO: THE IRISH TIMES / DITSU, Crossword Competition, The DIT Examiner, (to be dropped into local Union office)

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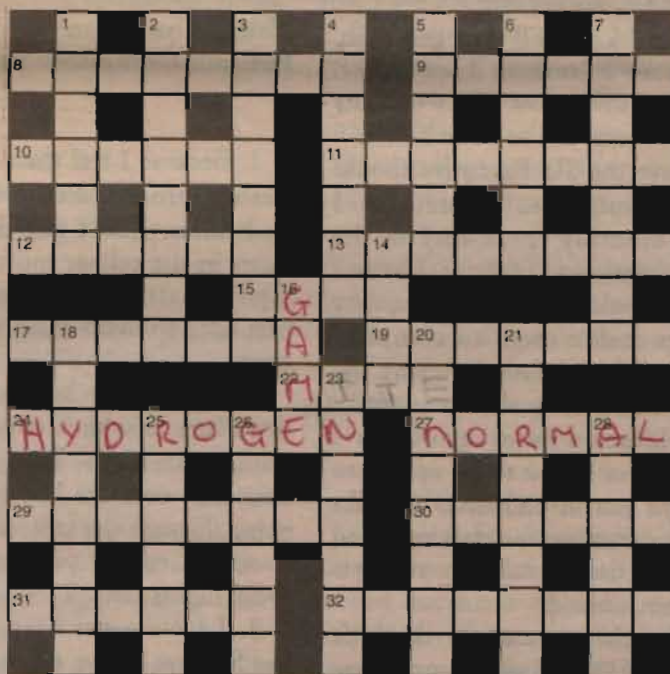
THE IRISH TIMES
FOR THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

Last Issue's winners were:

Sorcha Ní Eallaithe
(DIT Kevin St.)

Aisling O'Reilly
(DIT Aungier St.)

Eugene A. O'Neill
(DIT Aungier St.)



ACROSS

- 8 Extravagantly, profusely (8)
- 9 A smoking jacket? (6)
- 10 Decay, waste away, dry up (6)
- 11 Forms mental image (8)
- 12 Rise up against, rebel (6)
- 13 Brief, pithy saying (8)
- 15 Cast amorous glances (4)
- 17 Coloured handkerchief with spots or diamonds (7)
- 19 Sea or lake margins (7)
- 22 Time for a tiny insect (4)
- 24 The 'H' of H₂O (8)
- 27 Ordinary, not deviating from the standard (6)
- 29 Held ours up on part of the body (8)
- 30 Up to the minute (6)
- 31 Severe trial or examination (6)
- 32 Insinuation (8)

DOWN

- 1 Ill will, site (6)
- 2 Keep back, refuse to give up (8)
- 3 He rats on a hotel group (8)
- 4 Believing the worse of people (7)
- 5 Circle of inter-woven flowers. (6)
- 6 Unit of weight of nylon yarn (6)
- 7 Turned the other way about, went backwards (8)
- 14 Destructive insect or troublesome person. (4)
- 16 Sport, contest, amusement. (4)
- 18 Year when you could be any place (8)
- 20 Buildings divided into dwellings for a number of people (8)
- 21 Shortened, curtailed (8)
- 23 The feeling of being disinclined to move. (7)
- 25 Or used to be stirred up (6)
- 26 Blood sucking fly who feeds on cattle. (6)
- 28 Wear down or wear off (6)

COMPETITION NO. 6

To facilitate the widest dissemination possible of the central ideas and plans being put forward by the candidates for sabbatical positions in the DITSU elections, we asked them the following questions:

1. Why are you running for election?
2. What relevant experience do you have to make you a suitable candidate?
3. What, if any, is your previous involvement in the students' union?
4. Why should people vote for you rather than a rival candidate?
5. What issues should be Students' Union priorities in 96/97
6. Why Should people vote at all?

Mountjoy Square

Name: Robbie Whelan
Position Contested: Site President

1. I have been on the SU for four years and have always had designs on the president's position, but I decided to finish my studies first. Now my studies are almost complete, I believe I have the experience, knowledge, know how, motivation and commitment to make a very good president in the college that I genuinely real care about.

2. Clubs and Socs officer, 92/93, 93/94; Public Relations Officer 94/95; Founder, "The Comedian" magazine 94/95; part-time Students Officer 95/96; Rag Week Committee 92-96

3. As I've said, I've for years experience as an elected member of the SU. Also I have a cert and diploma in Marketing Management and fingers crossed a degree. I believe I have more than enough experience in the ways of the SU and the outside world as well as a great working relationship with the college authorities, to be a suitable candidate

4. Because I know I'll do a good job, because I've never let them down before, and because the know I'll work my socks off for them, as I've done before.

5. I believe the SU Executive should be more accountable to the students. I propose a monthly speak-easy in the canteen. In relation to facilities, I believe al students should have the appropriate facilities to enable them to complete their course. This definitely wasn't the case in Portland Row this year. Also, given our location here, security is a major issue. Also I want to set up a once weekly night out in COMAD. I'd like to see earlier training for class reps and few more facilities to make our students life more comfortable.

6. Because they care about their life here in COMAD. If they feel someone can or cannot make a difference, now is their chance to be heard, because it's to their benefit.

Name: Gordon Byrne
Position Contested: Site President

1. I am running for election for the above position because as a student I want to put myself in the best possible position to change the lack of facilities, communication and interaction for the better of my fellow students within the college. I also want to help them become aware of all services supplied by DIT.

2. I have worked closely with the students' union to organise many club and society events, such as Design Soc. trips and college functions such as fashion

shows. I have been involved in national cycling committees and club committees for the past three years. I also have a good rapport with people on all sides of the college, believe I can make a difference in the overall interaction of all school faculties.

3. I have been a member of many societies since year one and I am president of Design Society. I am design coordinator of COMAD fashion Show and have had input into many SU events.

4. I feel that because I am a design student I can bridge the evident gap between business and art and design schools. Unlike my rivals (who are both currently final year) I have to finish my course and feel it is very much to my personal advantage to improve upon conditions coming into my final year.

5. Integration. Communication. Computer Equipment. Welfare. Services.

6. To ensure that the students get a voice in the running of the college through a chosen figure whom they feel will reflect their views in the best way possible.

Name: Tom Keane
Position Contested: Site President

1. Because I feel there is a need for a fresh approach with a fresh face and fresh ideas. Also I feel that all the students in the college must have a greater input, that means minorities such as part time students must also have equal status.

2. I honestly believe that a new departure is what's required, old SU. thinking should be aborted. My experience has, over the last 4 years been of going through the same situations of flat searching, money problems, Rag Week, social nights etc.

3. I have never been involved with the SU but I have taken part in all the usual events such as Fresher and Rag Week.

4. Because I'm a fresh face, I haven't been tainted by former SU. However, I have been involved with many events and I know many people in the college. I want to be a united voice for everyone.

5. More resources for Hardship Fund. Open access to computer room facilities. Erasmus opportunities for all students. Improve security for all sites

6. Union needs the input of everybody, so that the Union caters for all students and not just the select "click" as in this college.

Name: Ronan Emmett
Position Contested: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. I feel that I have identified certain

issues that could be improved within the college and I feel that I have the ambition, qualities and determination to do this effectively.

2. I have been involved with local students union over the past two years, through the class rep. structure. I also represent COMAD on DIT Council where I have continually been working for a better deal for COMAD students.

3. I currently sit on DIT Council. I was involved with the USI demonstration for the past two years. I also have attended USI working groups and national council where COMAD students are represented at a regional and national level. I was involved with the rag crew and Freshers week.

4. I believe that my proved experience will enable me to fulfil my aims, such as setting up a welfare hotline for students who wish to remain anonymous and a policy of cheap prescriptions with the DIT card. I will strive to implement and improve facilities such as pay phones, internet access and more photocopiers. Plus., I will strive to improve facilities in the annexes such as plant chests, phones and an improved canteen service.

5. Increasing communication between the college and the annexes must be a big priority for the coming year. Also we should be looking into improved communication services and we should be working for the introduction of child care facilities. Our main aim will be to improve and carry on the great work that Mark and Stan have been doing. The students union also needs to tackle the problems facing students in terms of semesterisation.

6. Because I feel I can do a good job. My tack record has been proven over the past two years. I am dedicated and committed to the students union and I believe I can pave the way forward. It is up to the students to make the effort, as, the union is for the students themselves.

Name: Raymond Kinsella
Position Contested: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. There is a job on offer, it is a challenging position, but I feel that I have the ability to continue on doing a great job, just like what Stan has been doing over the last year. I would like him to think that his position is being left in capable hands.

2. Senior prefect on the school council at the FCJ Convent, Buncloody, Assistant Secretary of my local GAA club; President of the DIT COMAD Athletics Club; class prefect for two years in secondary school; bus prefect for two years which was a position of great responsibility ensuring safety for all students.

4. Part-time employment in the students union shop.

5. To keep running the students representation as effectively and as efficiently as possible, by doing this they can continue to provide that great hospitality which every new student has witnessed.

6. People deserve the right to have their opinions brought forward, they can do this by having a candidate which they can trust to deliver the goods.

Bolton Street

Name: Colin Costello
Position Contested: Site President

1. I believe continuity is vital in the success of any students' union. I have started and continued may campaigns this year and would like to follow them through to a successful conclusion.

2. I am the current deputy president/welfare officer and as such I know exactly how the union runs and should run. In my current position I sit on many committees and working groups such as USI Finance Committee, the DITSU Executive committee. I also sit on the DIT welfare and publications working groups. I also sit on DIT council (the supreme governing body of the SU) and on National Council (the supreme governing body of the National SU)

3. Class rep four years 1991-95; chairman property economics society four years 91-95; rag week ents crew three years 92-95.

4. I have the most important attribute for the job of president of the students union - EXPERIENCE. Continuity is also vital. I feel I am an approachable friendly person and can run the SU in a mature, honest and hardworking manner.

5. Careers and appointments; grants - to continue the current active campaign; academic welfare; accommodation.

6. The SU is there for the students and paid for by the students. Each student has a vote with which they should use to elect who they feel will represent them best. Voting is one of the most basic methods of student involvement. Every student should get involved so use your vote on March 6th.

Name: Ethyl Mythen
Position Contested: Site President

1. I feel that the union does not encourage new ideas as the route is for the welfare officer to become president which may lead to stagnation of ideas. As a newcomer, I believe I can introduce some new, effective ideas which may improve the run of the union.

2. Representative delegate at USI

Congress '94-95; representative delegate at Women's Conference '95-96; Chairperson of Dyslexia Society '94-95; Involved in world AIDS day events.

3. Co-acting Equality Officer '95-96; Involved in organisation of Nov. 17th and 15th, '94-95, '95-96; involved in organisation of rag weeks 94-95, 95-96; class rep. 95-96; representative at Clubs and Societies Training in Doolin 94-95.

4. Because I've been a close observer for the past two years and have seen how the union operates and some changes need to be made in order to improve the union. I believe that I have the capabilities to make those changes.

5. A crèche campaign; a more wheelchair accessible college; more efficient grants and to lobby TDs and MEPs for more adequate grants; affordable accommodation.

6. So that the students can actively participate in the union elections and have their say in who is to represent them for the following year. So the students have a right to complain if the union does not meet their expectations.

Name: Deirdre Maguire

Position Contested: Deputy Site President

1. Because I want to help students and become part of a team that provides a necessary and essential service in the college.

2. So far I have had many mundane and lack-lustre jobs, the only advantage being that they involved working with people public on whole and through this I feel that I have developed a sensitivity and diplomacy to people's needs attributions I feel will carry me through and enable me to do the job successfully should I be elected.

3. So far this year O was elected by my class representative whereby I was further elected on to DIT Council and I am now secretary of which, through being involved in these particular facets of the union I feel I have been exposed to the in's and out's and daily running of the union which has granted me the experience which I deem necessary to carry out this position successfully.

4. I believe that people should vote for me because I am honest and enthusiastic straight forward, and bearing these qualities I feel without hesitation that I will be able to carry out the required duties above and beyond the call of duty and beyond all this and importantly I am a hard worker which is essential, I won't quit until I do whatever it is I'm working on to the end.

5. Students should be a priority in '96/97 and we as candidates can only stab and anticipate at what will be the priorities in '96/97 and it's only by keeping an ear to the ground and be being eager and available will we truly find out what are the priorities for students and how we can achieve and maintain them.

6. I believe that people should vote because changes will never be made unless people voice a constructive opinion and allow good people to be voted in to the union and the only way for this to happen is by people using their

initiative and using their vote to better circumstances for themselves.

Name: Eamonn Colgan

Position Contested: Deputy Site President

1. To bring new ideas for the union and strengthen the structure of union in Bolton Street. I will continue the good work carried out over the last four years and to do my utmost for Bolton Street Student Body.

2. I have been a student in Bolton St for the past two years. In this time I have been an active member of DIT Council and also a class rep. I was also an ents crew for this year's successful rag week.

3. I am currently an active member of Council. I am also on the rag week ents crew and am a class rep.

4. As an active member of DIT Council I believe I have the insight and knowledge to perform my duties as deputy President/welfare officer with the utmost efficiency.

5. Accommodation; student hardship; career guidance; grants.

6. This is the opportunity for people to express their satisfaction/dissatisfaction of the job of the union has done to date for them.

Name: Michael James Liddy

Position Contested: Site Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. I am running for election because I believe that I can improve the facilities and opportunities for the students of DIT

2. I was honoured the position as chairman of Bolton Street Sailing Club. I also have organised various trips and outings of members. I represent DIT and Bolton Street's Rugby Team and Sailing Team which has given me an insight into the running of college events and union.

3. Chairman of the sailing club and helping in the organisation of sailing trips/events and rugby matches.

4. I believe that my views and aims are far superior to any other candidates.

5. To inform students of the facilities available to them. To promote student involvement in union activities. To make students more aware of their rights and entitlements.

6. It's every student's constitutional right to have the people they want representing them and to give them a say in the running of the college.

DIT Kevin Street

Name: Dermot Blake

Position Contested: Site President

1. To represent the students. To bring back trust from the students. To campaign on behalf of the student.

2. I am presently the Deputy President/Welfare Officer in Kevin Street. I also have some experience in the area of public speaking.

3. Same as above plus class rep and DIT Council.

4. There is no rival candidate.

5. Preserving a smoking area in both eating areas in Kevin Street. A lot of union development. Provision of our own canteen facilities.

6. They should care who represents them and works for them and will campaign with them on their behalf at a local level, DIT level and if needs be at a national level.

DIT Aungier Street

Name: Sinead Pidgeon

Position Contested: Site President

1. I am running for election because I am the most suitable candidate for the position. I want to show that through next year, Aungier Street can only get bigger and better.

2. Deputy President for this year. I am outgoing, sensitive, approachable and willing to undertake anything and stand up for the beliefs of others.

3. At present, I am the Welfare Officer/Deputy President in the Union. I have been Class Rep for 2 years.

4. I have shown my commitment and my ability to deliver.

5. Access to education. Reinstatement of Social Welfare Rights. Security (on campus). Lecturing standards

6. It is part of the democratic process, whereby if people don't vote they have nobody to blame but themselves if the job ends up in the wrong hands. Fortunately mine will be the right hands.

Name: Susan Kavanagh

Position Contested: Site President

1. As a student in the College for 2 years I am aware of the daily problems that face the student. The Students need a strong leader, aware of their problems, to represent them with a view to improving student life in the college. I believe I am that person.

2. I have been a class rep throughout this year and a member of DIT council. The most important experience is that of being a student.

3. Throughout the past two years I have helped the SU from handing out flyers to informing my class of upcoming events, and more recently the Fashion Show. I also participated in counting the election votes last year.

4. I am a new candidate with fresh ideas and an energy to instigate changes that will improve student life.

5. I feel that the major issues facing the Student Union in '96/97 include, Communication between the students and the Union, investigating the situation of space allocation from the badly needed lectures and to highlight the problem of non-existent Sports

6. If you the Student wish to have a say in how you want the college run a vote ensures you have spoken. As I've said this campaign is for you the student.

Name: Des Grogan

Position Contested: Site President

1. To make a change

2. I've started and run quite successfully a society which I feel has given me a lot of confidence and experience in organisations.

3. I was a steward in the March on November 15th and I took part in the Fashion Show and helped organise the Battle of the Bands during Rag Week.

4. Because the other candidate have been around for two years already.

5. Better lecture standards. Student Welfare/Poverty.

6. A vote is a right that should never be taken for granted. Whether people vote for me or not doesn't matter but it would be a mortal sin if they didn't vote at all.

Name: Siobhan Weekes

Position Contested: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. I have worked as a part-time officer during the year, and I find the time constraints imposed by study time very frustrating. While I have always been interested in the area of student welfare working with the college Welfare Officer has given me an appreciation of the work involved. I am running for election, because I have a real interest in this area, and would like to work full time on this issue. I am also confident that I am the best person for the job.

2. At the beginning of the year, I attended USI Welfare Training which equipped me with many skills and knowledge to enable me to deal with minor welfare cases when the Welfare Officer was unavailable. On another level, I have worked in a Domestic Violence Project. That involved securing financial aid and accommodation for the women concerned, as well as helping them to cope with personal problems pertaining to their situation. Obviously, parallels can be drawn between the work I did there and that expected of a Welfare Officer.

3. I have been a Councillor on DIT Council for the past 2 years, and am an elected member of DIT council's Disciplinary Committee and Women's Affairs Committee. I am a part-time Students' Officer and also am involved in USI Irish Language Policy Committee. As a part-time officer, I have a good working knowledge of the structures of DITSU and experience of a local Union.

4. The position of Welfare Officer/Deputy President has 2 distinct briefs, and I understand that in order for it to work efficiently, a balance must be achieved and maintained. I am confident that I am able to do so. I have had some experience in the area of Welfare, and more importantly, I am very interested in working full-time in this area. Efficiently elected, I promise to bring 3 things to this position - commitment, dedication and experience.

5. These are the issues I feel that need to be Union priorities in '96/97.

Grants: Increasing threshold, better

communication with relevant County Councils to avoid unnecessary delays in receiving the grant.

Accommodation: Playing a stronger role in helping students with all accommodation problems. Union Development: getting all students involved to ensure that the SU in working all times.

Medical cards: as students are not entitled to this anymore, much campaigning is necessary.

6. Election time is when everyone has a vote, a voice and a right to choose. Considering that the Union is funded by the students, it is essential that they get value for money. Once the polling booths have shut and the votes are counted, it is too late to object to who will be running the Students' Union in the year to come. With this in mind, the most effective way of speaking to a mandating all incoming officers is through the ballot box.

Name: Maebh Coleman
Position Contested: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. I'm running for election because I'm really interested in the Welfare brief - I believe I'm the person most able to continue the work which has started in Aungier St this year. I'm acutely aware of the welfare problems facing Aungier St Students as well.

3. I'm CUBS and SOCS Officer at the moment but was acting Clubs and SOCS last year. Before that I was President of the Communications Society. I've been a DITSU Councillor for 2 years. Also a member of the Women's Affairs Committee.

4. Rival - hello - What? Ah no - seriously. I have lots of experience, and I'm not prepared to sit in an office and tell people a selective amount of information regarding their Union. I want to make sure people know the Students' Union is there for them.

5. I hope to address Welfare issues such as Employment, Accommodation Crisis, Pregnancy and complaining for World Aids day/Safe sex, etc. However, these will not be effective unless there is greater involvement in the SU. So one of my main priorities would be class rep and student involvement.

6. Hmm, people should vote because the whole idea of having a Students' Union is that of a democracy - if you don't voice your opinion then you have no control over who gets to call the shots. Anyway if you don't vote then you don't get to moan about the exec. and what they're at!!!

Cathal Brugha Street

Name: Tom McCarthy
Position Contested: Site President

1. Being here four years you come to realise the problems that arise within the college and especially its annexes, both academically and socially. I have seen the development of DITSU and intend to continue its ideals and use it to devel-

ope a waist line like Colin Joyce (especially since he is going to students problems).

2. Firstly I am a student for four years and therefore can understand the problems that arise in student life. As I live away from home and do not get a grant I understand financial hardship and problems with getting accommodation and dealing with landlords and I have the ability to absorb information and deal with problems especially when drunk.

3. Over the last three years I have been working with the student response network in organising fund raising occasions and have been vocally involved in representing my class and my college when problems have arisen.

4. Voting me into the students union will bring in a fresh approach to tackling the students problems through my involvement in the student response network. I have developed the necessary skill in dealing with people, their social problems (lack of drink) and running functions.

5. The students union can only prioritise those issues that the students inform the union of that is why the students opinion should be prioritised in 96/97 and that is why my manifesto is based on what students have told me.

6. Students should vote to ensure that all student sections of the college are represented. Also to maintain the democratic process within the students union and to ensure the majority opinion is heard.

Name: Shane McCartan
Position Contested: Site President

1. Shane is running for election so he can make sure that the process made over the last 2 years can be built upon and also improved. Promises made after the strike in CBS have yet to be fulfilled and Shane feels he can keep up this campaign to improve all aspects of student life. However, Shane feels that a change of fare is needed, a new injection of blood required and a person capable of achieving these aims vital - Shane is the right person of the job.

2. After 3 years in CBS Shane feels that he has adequate experience from inside and outside college. He has had close contact with the union over the last 2 years and therefore feels that he knows what direction to go in. He has started helped out with union strikes and campaigns and has had strong links with sport in the college: chairperson of the soccer club, member of the sports council, member of the tennis club. This year the soccer team has been the most successful ever in CBS and Shane secured sponsorship for a set of polo shirts for his players. Shane also helped raise money for Clubs and SOCS by organising a night out in Powers Hotel. Shane has also been on the Rag Week Committee and has attended Clubs and SOCS training week-ends this year. His enthusiasm is undoubted and ability unquestioned. He is a person that likes to get things done.

3. I haven't been a full member of the SU but have liaised closely with it as member of the Sports Council and Chairperson of the Soccer Club.

4. I believe I am the best person for the job because I have experience with dealing with people and am very approachable and well known in College. The other candidates are strong in their own right but I feel that I would do the best job because of my credentials and because the students want new fresh ideas in their union.

5. Letters communication channels, Rathmines is a major priority; more UGMs and class rep. meetings; a more approachable/accessible union; a more diligent/organised union; to promote DIT on a local and national level; to ensure the transition to the extension runs smoothly; to create social awareness of drugs, alcohol and other abuse; to delegate and work closely with the union for students benefits.

6. People should vote for their own Welfare and the Welfare of others. They should vote correctly to get me elected for their own benefit. Everyone has a right to influence their student life by voting so it is in their own interest to take advantage of this right.

Name: Patricia Moran
Position Contested: Site President

1. I am running for election as I feel there is a lot I can offer to the Students Union in Cathal Brugha St. Next year we will see many changes within the college due to the new extension and I believe that it is extremely important to have a competent and experienced person as President to initiate these changes.

2. I have held the position of Deputy President/Welfare Officer for the past year, during this time I have worked hard to provide an open and accessible welfare service for all students and have also worked on a number of campaigns and have seen what to do and not to do.

3. Deputy President/Welfare Officer
Chairperson of DIT WELFARE WORKING GROUP

Secretary of DITSU EXECUTIVE
Secretary of EDUCATION REPRESENTATION WORKING GROUP

Member of WRAC
Member of USI Welfare Group

4. People should give me their No 1 vote because I have spent the past year as Welfare Officer/Deputy President and in this time have gained much insight into the union both in Cathal Brugha St and on a DITSU level. I have the experience and have proven myself to be a good leader. The Union next year will be seeing many new faces and the president will face a huge challenge in uniting and directing their officers. Continuity has proven itself to be extremely effective with 10 people running for sabbatical positions. From the experience and knowledge gained over the last year I will do my best to ensure the continuation of our Unions strong position.

5. Priorities for next year must include -

1. to develop and enhance the orientation programme ensuring that all incoming students are made aware of the different services available to them.

2. to continue campaigning for all

students rights, especially lobbying for increased grants/better accommodation etc.

3. the training of all part-time officers and class reps in the first term of the year.

4. The promotion of DIT on a national level ensuring it gains the recognition it deserves.

5. People should vote so their voice is heard and so the right person for the job will then get the job. The SU belongs to the student body and the officers must be an adequate representative for the majority's beliefs.

Name: Paula O'Sullivan
Position Contested: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. After four years in Cathal Brugha St I understand the students and the inadequacies they face, and would love to have the opportunity to represent and work for the student body.

2. I have experience of organising people on a smaller scale through the environmental, health society in Cathal Brugha St. I also have good interpersonal skills as many people know!

3. I was president of the environmental health society for one year and very involved for another 3 years. I was involved in discussion over industrial placement for 3rd year Env. Health students.

4. I can best represent the students in 96/97. I am very approachable and only mad to talk to people.

5. Make everyone aware of facilities of students union and Welfare Officer. Students need to be informed of changes in Cathal Brugha St re extension and new faculty structures.

6. Because it's in everybody's best interest to do so. If they don't vote they won't achieve any aims relevant to them.

Name: Bob Coughlan
Position Contested: Welfare Officer

1. Bob is running for Welfare Officer because he has been closely involved in student union life for the last two years and, by running for Welfare, Bob will be able to participate in the running of the union on a greater scale and contribute more of his new and fresh ideas.

2. Bob has worked closely with charities and local community organisations in Dublin over the past eight years. Bob has the ability to organise and manage events having been chairperson of various clubs and societies in CBS as well as helping in the organisation of the 1995 DIT Sports Day and the USI Student Marches of 1994/95. Bob also has knowledge of welfare issues having been Anti-Discrimination Officer 1994/95.

3. In his second year in college, Bob was Anti-Discrimination Officer dealing with such issues as childcare, discriminations, harassment, sexual equality and disability rights. All of these issues fall under the brief of the Welfare Officer and Bob's experience will be telling. This year, Bob is Employment Officer. This is a high contact position and Bob's

ability to talk with outside employers/organisations and his expertise in organising employments are valuable assets which will serve Bob well next year

4. Continuity is vital, if the SU is to prosper in 1996/97. Bob offers that continuity through his experience of the last two years. Bob is compassionate, sincere, hard-working and most importantly, has the ability to listen. There is no substitute for the sort of experience and ability which Bob has to offer.

5. The priorities of the SU in 1996/97 are to campaign for - better grants for students, consistency and regularity in payment of existing ESF grants, improvement of facilities, and to cater of the better welfare of all students. Bob knows his priorities and those of the Union, and will not relax his efforts until he sees results.

6. The SU is the medium through which students can make their voice heard. Students may find the SU intimidating but it is not as intimidating as going to the College Director looking for better Welfare. The elections gives students the opportunity to elect a strong representative body for next year, and it is through strength that there is unity student unity.

Name: Adrienne Condon
Position Contested: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. After being part of the CBS SU and seeing daily how well Colin and Trish ran, the office handled students problems and organised events. I felt I learned a lot from them and I feel tht I can continue their good work.

2. Public Relations officer 95/96 at CBS SU

3. As above

4. I feel that I have the relevant experience from one year as a non-sabbatical, as opposed to the 4 of the 6 candidates, who have no SU experience.

5. To make the union more accessible, get the extensions completed to promote DIT to deal with education problems, to promote ENTS, to promote communication throughout the Colleges via the Class/Rep system.

6. The Students Union work for students, its their choice to whom they would like in the SU and to who would be more helpful, organised etc...

Name: Mairead Molloy
Position Contested: Deputy Site President/Welfare Officer

1. Representation for the annexes is a main priority for me. I attend classes in Sackville and it is a disgrace. I have heard the same from DEnmark St and Rathmines. I want to ensure equal rights for all CBS students. I also feel we need more recycling here and I hope to improve the situation.

2. Right from the beginning of the year I have shown a keen interest in all student union activities. I took part in the Nov 15th being President of CBS Drama Society and a member of the RAG Committee.

3. Any help I could give from the start of the yer I have also again taking part in Nov 15th being President of CBS Drama Society and a member of the RAG Committee.

4. Because I believe if elected I will do my best for Cathal Brugha Streets students and they deserve no less. I promise to do my utmost to help anyone who asks me.

5. The improvement of the condition of the annexes. The improvement in communications with the annexes. The provision of recycling services in CBS and its annexes. To get the Health Bord to allow Environmental Health students to have work experience with them.

6. As Jarvis Cocker once sang "Brothers, sisters, cant you see, the futures owed by you and me". Especially the first years and those just about to go forth and form the country. If you dont vote you wont be heard and you wont have a say in your future.

Name: Linda Stapleton
Position Contested: Deputy President/Welfare Officer

1. I'm running for election because I'm aware of the social issues, equipped to work with and for students. I've got the personality, experience, commitment to work within the union. I like a challenge and work well under pressure.

2. As a student in social science I'm informed and aware of a lot of social issues. I've spent the first year as a class rep, working to bring about a change in conditions, and addressing issues with the students union.

3. Through class rep meetings and my own interest I've worked with counsellors/lecturers to help change the canteen situation in Rathmines, through petitions, letters and pressure.

4. Why? Because I'm a student in social sciences, aware of welfare issues with the experience to deal with them. I've worked with the union and believe that I have the commitment, experience and initiative to do the best job possible.

5. I feel that by extending the information system, the welfare services will become more accessible to all. Priorities would include ramp access for disabled students, information centres, working for a DIT crèche facility and recycling. Its vital to work with issues affecting student life, and building on the relationship between colleges.

6. People should vote because its their right. They're exercising their right of personal choice. Its important that they have a part in deciding whose going to do the best job for them next year.

The Candidates '96

DIT Bolton Street

Site President
Colin Costello
Ethel Mythen

Deputy President
Deirdre McGuire
Michael Liddy
Eamonn Colgan
Andrew Keegan

Clubs and Societies
Ross O'Daly
John Kenny

PRO
Mark McInerney

Ents
Ruari Blair
Charlie Mitchell

Irish Language Officer
Michael O'Briain

No equalities
No apprentice

Mountjoy Square

Site President
Robbie Whelan
Thomas Keane
Gordon Byrne

Deputy President
Raymond Kinsella
Ronan Emmett

Clubs and Socs
Richard Spence

PRO
Michael Shannon
Paul Kelly

Ents
Andrew Crowe
Ciaran Timmons

Irish Language Officer
Diarmuid Fox
John Marr

Equalities
Raymond Smyth
Rosemary Daly
Audrey Townsend

Part time Officer
Chanelle Burke
Trevor Buckley

Cathal Brugha Street

Site President:
Patricia Moran
Conor Smith
Tom McCarthy
Shane McCarthion

Deputy President
Adrian Condon
Mairead Molloy
Bob Coughlan
Paula O'Sullivan
Damian McCarthy

Linda Stapleton

Clubs and Socs
George Hook

Equality Officer
Niamh McGrath
Niamh Jennequin
Conor Byrne

Irish Language Officer
Peadar McPhaidin
Deirdre Ni Riain

PRO
Michelle Carolan
Rachel Meehan
Andreas Lenehan

No Ents Candidate

Employments Officer
Caroline Tithe

Aungier Street

Site President
Sinead Pidgeon
Des Grogan
Susan Kavanagh

Deputy President
Siobhan Weekes
Maebh Colman

Ents Officer
Leigh Farrelly
Paul Manning

Clubs and Socs
Rachel Grogan

Irish Langiage Officer
Muireann DeBarra

PRO
Sorcha Ní Laoghóg

Equalities Officer
Grainne Nevin

Part time Officer
Gavin Purtill

Kevin Street

Site President
Dermot Blake

No Site Deputy President candidate
Ents

Gary Nealon

Clubs and Socs
James Killelea
Andoni O'Conchubhair

Irish Language Officer
Padraig O'Connor

Equalities
Tony Choi

Apprentice Officer
None

Joyce Goes It Alone for Overall President Position

It must be difficult for Colin Joyce to keep a satisfied smile from his face at the moment. Since nominations closed for this year's DITSU elections he has known that he is the only candidate running for the position of Overall President of DITSU. Indeed, it has been fairly common knowledge for some weeks that he would be alone in the race - a surprise candidate is always possible but brave and foolish wolf be the person who tried that title on for size. Barring a scenario borrowed from the X Files, Colin Joyce will be the next overall president. He claims that the lack of competition has not resulted in his taking the campaign for granted.

"I can't understand why no-one else is interested in the position of Overall president but unfortunately that's the way it is. What I will be seeking to do is get a very strong mandate from the students, an overwhelming yes..." "It's been said that I don't have to try too hard but by not trying hard you increase your no vote and no-one wants to go in with a bad no vote. It's highly unlikely that there'll be a majority of Nos but at the same time I want an overwhelming Yes vote."

In fact, throughout the DIT there is a lack of interest in certain positions this year with some sites being forced to plan by-elections even before this week's elections have taken place. In other places, however, there is keen interest and Joyce points out that in Cathal Brugha Street, where he is currently Site President, there are four people running for president and six for deputy president.

"It appears that the interest isn't there in other colleges. I don't know the nuts and bolts of on the ground of each college but what I would be hoping to do next year is to publicise the union, get us into the papers far more, maybe bring in a position of press and research officer, someone who can find it what's going wrong, where the communication problems are."

"Little things like the clubs and societies officers on each site not having met each other until February or March, these things make a big difference. Had they been meeting more often more ideas would have been coming forward, more tuff would have been happening."

If all goes well, Colin Joyce will be attending Congress this year (to be held in Galway) as incoming president of DITSU. Over the past couple of years, there has been some friction between DIT delegates and USI officers and indeed between DIT delegates and other DIT delegates. The most memorable, personal and unpleasant exchanges were heard dur-

ing the debate on the position of Women Right's Officer in DIT sites, a position which was recently abolished in a referendum, itself a messy business. A vote cannot be taken on this issue again for two years but it is not going to go away.

"Women's Rights Officer didn't work in DIT. We weren't getting people running for it and any position that doesn't have people running for it and constructive work isn't being done has go to be reviewed. There are other positions in DIT which will have to be reviewed after the poor turnout in

"USI and DIT have been in confrontation and I have been involved in a lot of ...[he chooses the words carefully] ... conference with certain officers in USI. I believe that the structure of USI is very good and I believe that most people elected to it are committed to it but I take issue with the manner in which USI has been approaching things. DITSU was treated like the poor relation over the last year and I would hate to see that continue. There are a lot of problems I see with USI and I would hope to see that changed internally, if not, DITSU

to talk freely in terms of disaffiliations and personality clashes and the need for changes.

"You always have to remember that we are an individual union and members of USI which is a federalist organisation and if our student take a decision and it doesn't go with the opinion of USI officers they have got to accept that. Other colleges have done it around the country on different issues and no big confrontation has come out of it. I don't know whether it has to do with the proximity or whether it has to do with some officers in USI having a great dislike to officers in DIT and I hope to God it never happens again."

Colin Joyce is by all accounts a very popular president in Cathal Brugha Street. He has an easy likeability and he and his executive have dealt efficiently with local issues but being overall president is an entirely different and vastly more responsible position.

"Being site president is far more hands on, doing anything from answering phones to drawing up menus for different classes. Overall is co-ordinating the entire union, making sure you highlight problems that students see, accessibility to union offices, people's perception of DITSU, the relationship between DITSU and DIT middle management. Over the past two years we have built up a strong relationship between DITSU and DIT management and that has tended to alleviate some of the problems we have had with individual sites."

The issues he will be concentrating on next year will include the seemingly arbitrary docking of ESF money across the institute. In some sites, he says, you can be docked for missing any of the first four classes whereas in others it is only for the first class. This anomaly and the administration of the money needs to be looked at carefully. He also believes that the lack of sports facilities will be coming to the fore and he will be concentrating on a campaign to have them improved, or in some cases, provided for at all.

The past three years have seen changes in DITSU and it has been an exciting time. Colin Joyce sounds like a man determined to make things interesting next year. He is following in the footsteps of Dieric O'Brien (jeans and sloppy sweater) and Colman Byrne (jeans sometimes, sweater maybe, never sloppy). Joyce sees himself somewhere in between.

"I'd probably go for the sharp suit if I was going to meet the head of DIT but if it was just me, Colin Joyce, I'd think I'd be in the jeans. Maybe not the sweater."



Colin Joyce, the only candidate for DITSU Overall President

the elections. DITSU has got a women's campaign but the issue of WRO is finished because the students have said we no longer want a WRO. That won't change until two years time if it is put to a referendum again.

"I don't think it was an issue for an awful lot of people. It was an issue for a minority of people." He insists that it would never be his intention to kill off the women's campaign. "That could never happen and it would never be my intention."

The ongoing less than cheery relationship with some members of USI may or may not continue into next year. It will depend on a number of factors, but Colin Joyce says he will not flinch from tough action.

would have to reconsider its position."

Pushed on this, he adds that "if at this time next year that USI had performed in the same manner as it performed this year then you would be expecting a disaffiliation campaign from USI and I would look favourably on a disaffiliation campaign if we had the same performance we had this year."

"I hope and pray that the people elected this year become aware of the problems of communication between DITSU and USI and that there's a change in attitude within USI and the perception of officers towards DITSU."

Mr Joyce obviously feels very strongly about this issue and is happy

Remember These?



***DIT Sports Day, Wednesday, March 20th
at the ALSAA Sports Complex, Dublin
Airport. See your students' union or local
sports officers for details.***

Welfare - What Happens Now?

The question has to be asked how come 6 people are running for Deputy President/Welfare Officer in Cathal Brugha Street and there are no candidates for this position in Kevin Street. And of those 6 candidates, which brief is regarded as the priority - Welfare or Deputy President?

The position of Deputy President/Welfare Officer is a predominantly welfare one and it is the most important position in the Union. Welfare is an area of work which involves every student and welfare work in no way detracts from the political work undertaken by the Union, rather it enhances it, in that students are politicised through their

own experience.

The Welfare Officer deals with all aspects of welfare relevant to students. They are responsible for the provision of information relating to a wide range of issues including housing, tenants rights, grants, health and social welfare entitlements to name but a few. The Welfare Officer must actively campaign on local issues within the college to raise awareness so that students can identify with the work of the Union. They must also participate in conjunction with other Unions, in National Welfare Campaigns, for example the Medical Cards Campaign. As members of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), we are part of the most

powerful lobbying force in the country. Welfare is a priority issue in the campaigning strategy of USI and it is vital that all Welfare Officers have input into these campaigns.

The Welfare Officers' term begins on the 1st of August and lasts until the 31st May. They take a year out of college and receive a wage. Welfare Officers receive training over the Summer months from DITSU and USI and are fully equipped with all relevant information before students begin a new term in September.

So returning to the opening question, why are 6 candidates contesting the position of DP/Welfare Officer in Cathal Brugha Street while not one

person in Kevin Street is prepared to run. Is the conclusion we draw from this that Kevin Street don't need a Welfare Officer or that a wave of apathy has swept through the college and students don't feel their Union is important to them? We would like to remind you that £23 of your capitation fee is given to the Students' Union and this money pays for two full-time Sabbatical Officers to work on your behalf. Does this not demand interest and involvement in the SU? When nominations are re-opened in Kevin Street, we wonder will students make welfare a priority by running and voting in these elections.

by Helen Ryan



National Students Centre

"The basic principle of the Union of Students in Ireland is the defence and promotion of the fundamental educational, political, social, cultural and welfare interests of Irish students.

The National Students Centre was established in 1993 with that in mind, so as to provide you with good quality, low cost entertainment facilities."

We read over our founding principle again recently and figured we needed to change some things. So from Thursday the 16th of November our new price list will be:-

Draught Pints	£1.70
Bottled Beer	£1.50
Spirits	£1.65
Liqueurs	£1.80
Soft Drinks	75p



It's your Club, use it !

Remember every Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Music & Munchies till 1 • Beer till 12.30
MEMBERS FREE • GUESTS £2 AFTER 10.30